02139.000017.**2**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Prior Examiner: Kathleen M. Kerr) Prior Group Art Unit: 1652
YUTAKA TAKANO, ET AL.		
Application No.: (Continuation of Appl. No. 09/496,041 filed February 2, 2000)		
Filed:	Concurrently herewith) :
For:	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PURINE NUCLEOTIDES) :) August 1, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

a.) <u>Introductory Comments</u>

The present amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as permitted in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted", a copy of which is attached.